



Number Four

Charles Street Byway Management Plan

Protecting and Promoting the Unique Qualities of the Charles Street Corridor

Preserving and Enhancing the Byway

There are fourteen requirements for corridor management plans that must be met for a scenic road to be designated as a National Scenic Byway. Of the fourteen, five are specific to preservation and enhancement of the byway:

- A map identifying the corridor boundaries and the location of intrinsic qualities and different land uses within the corridor;
- An assessment of such intrinsic qualities and of their context;
- A strategy for maintaining and enhancing those intrinsic qualities;
- A strategy describing how existing development might be enhanced and new development might be accommodated while still preserving the intrinsic qualities of the corridor;
- A demonstration that intrusions on the visitor experience have been minimized to the extent feasible, and a plan for making improvements to enhance that experience.

Charles Street is fortunate in that most of the byway is designated as a series of continuous local and national historic districts. However, only two of the historic districts have adopted guidelines for accommodating new development. Additional efforts will be needed to guide future development in a manner that will be compatible with the intrinsic qualities while being respectful of the individual interests of property owners.

In addition, efforts are needed to accelerate existing planned or programmed enhancement projects to ensure that they are implemented in a

timely manner and to address the issue of the need to minimize intrusions on the visitor experience. Additional strategies are also needed to better maintain the urban forest and green infrastructure along Charles Street, and to improve the overall cleanliness and 'curb appeal' of all the neighborhoods along Charles Street.

Preliminary Strategies

The attached table identifies a preliminary list of preservation and enhancement strategies designed to preserve Charles Street's nationally and regionally significant historic qualities. The strategies also suggest ways for development to be accommodated in a manner that maintains and/or enhances those historic qualities. The strategies are organized according to five key goals:

- Preserve particularly vulnerable and high priority historic structures, sites and landscapes through the use of preservation easements;
- Maintain the overall character and quality of the byway through the use of simple and easy to understand design and development guidelines;
- Maintain and enhance Charles Streets urban forest and green infrastructure;
- Assist existing groups in their efforts to implement previously planned and programmed enhancement projects for Charles Street;
- Work with and support existing groups in their efforts to better maintain public spaces along Charles Street.



Charles Street is distinguished by some of the most important architecture and urban design and planning in America, unified by the landscape and a palate of indigenous building materials that marries the brick clay of the Plain with the rock of the Piedmont. Most significantly, uniquely, and charmingly, the 12 mile length consists of a virtually unbroken series of local and National Register historic districts, including the Mount Vernon Place National Historic Landmark District.

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